

Student Profile: Campus Politicos

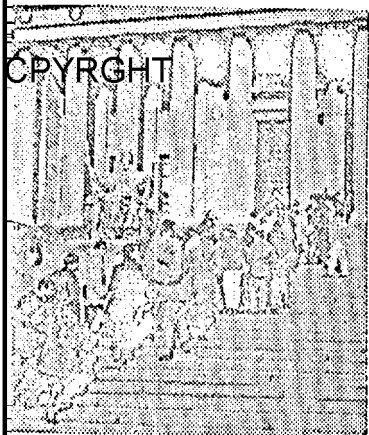
By MIMI KAHAL

What it was that was so exciting about the CIA protests two weeks back was the spontaneous flow of youth in ferment. The students who flocked to Low Rotunda were baffled and a little belligerent and they wanted explanations.

They never got the answers they sought and the demonstration disbanded. But for a moment they held the stage, and the protest brought a sliver of hope at a time of mute despair.

The student speakers didn't resort to rash appeals and they didn't try to whip the crowds into line. But they did communicate their own excitement to the onlookers.

The radical students who stirred the Sundial crowds convey the same sense of excitement when they are confronted in per-



Students flocked up to Low Rotunda November-21 to question President Kirk about the role of the CIA on campus.

mal interviews. To interview them is inspiring — not because they are especially profound or sharp-sighted but because they are earnestly straining for something better.

The coordinator of the SDS Sundial rallies was John Fuerst — the speaker with the prominent forehead and skeleton jaw who amused the crowd with

a proletarian twang. Fuerst concedes that the CIA protest brought "no real changes," but he considers it successful be-

cause it "made people aware of the issue of student power." By "student power" he means "the ability of students to control their own lives, to manage their own affairs."

Fuerst denies that universities are autonomous. "The university today is almost completely integrated into American society. As power becomes more and more concentrated, the same ruling elite gravitates between academia, government and the large corporations."

"It's relevant to rebel on campus because the university trains people to fit into the American social system. The university trains people for a fragmentary work experience in which they never sense the final product of their labor and never realize their full capabilities."

Fuerst hopes to take up graduate work in European history next year at the University of Wisconsin. He may launch a leftist journal there with the help of two other Columbia colleagues.

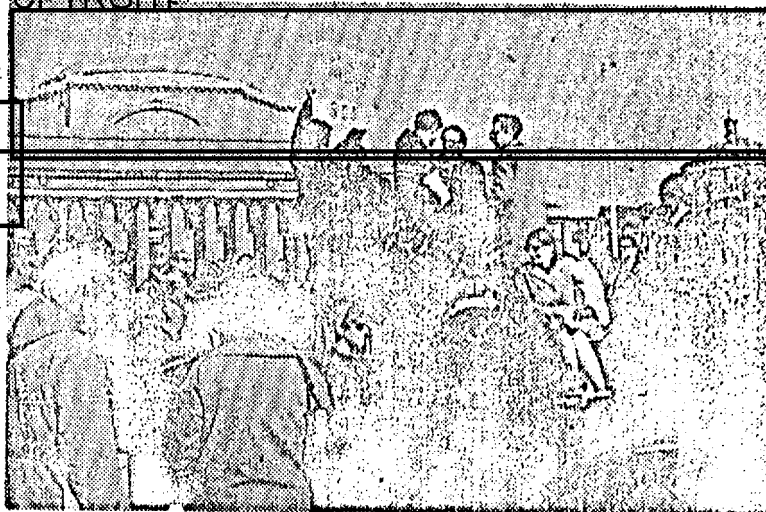
Blume says that "a lot of discontented groups on campus have been becoming more threatening than ever and they will find expression in SDS." He believes that the radical sentiment on campus has been nurtured by the presence of the Independent Committee on Vietnam and has been brought to the fore by the CIA incident.

Josefowicz adds that "the people at the CIA rallies were serious. There were a lot of new faces there and nobody walked out when he waited an hour for the CIA agent."

In addition, Blume believes the new SDS group stands a good chance of success "because it is fighting for a specific line. The end goal of SDS is the interests of its constituency; students need power to be students."

"The university today turns out trained components for a system in which one is taught to obey and to obey well. The student

learns to think like a technician, not an educator." He believes that students "will have a real stake in SDS because it is prac-



John Fuerst (center) coordinated the SDS Sundial rallies which stirred the student onlookers to protest the presence of the CIA at Columbia.

tical, keyed to the level of their own needs."

And Josefowicz adds that "even if the students can't win more power in the decision-making process they can at least be educated to an understanding of the process so they can continue to challenge institutions and win little issues . . . The success of the CIA incident made me feel a little bit more proud to be at Columbia."

Another activist, one who fired the crowds at the Sundial rallies with his incisive speeches, is Paul Rockwell GF. However, unlike the others, Rockwell prefers to bypass organizational activity and press his political views primarily through his own publication "Gadfly."

Rockwell, a trim, clean-cut blond, gibes that "the Left doesn't trust me because I wear a tie and coat." He claims to be "one of the few radicals around here who tries to appeal to the politically conservative."

Although his "Gadfly" journal

is sponsored by the Protestant Office, Rockwell is granted complete editorial freedom in its contents. Perhaps because he is so steeped in his own political oratory and composition, Rockwell discusses his views coherently and emphatically.

When he explains why he aims his "Gadfly" critique at conservatives, his own faith in Jeffersonian principle becomes evident. He contends that "the conservatives have failed to understand their own original views."

Rockwell says ironically that "for patriotic reasons the conservatives are undermining the most basic American traditions. They have replaced respect for the Constitution with the worship of graven patriotic images."

"When these symbols are worshipped for their own sake their underlying meaning is perverted," Rockwell says, "I'll bet many of these rabid patriots can't recite a single law of the Constitution." And so he, too, lends his voice to the rising din of student protest.

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